

South Carolina Department of Commerce



Transportation and Infrastructure

South Carolina's strategic location and superior transportation infrastructure assure fast, reliable, prompt deliveries to markets in the growing Southeast region, as well as national and international markets. The state's proximity to customers and raw materials reduces delivery time, cuts the costs associated with inventory storage and streamlines transportation costs – all of which increase a company's profitability .



Interstate Highway System

A South Carolina site is located within 1,000 miles of 35 states and roughly 75 percent of the total U.S. population. These strategic advantages have been recognized by such manufacturers as BMW, Michelin, General Electric, Robert Bosch and Bridgestone Firestone. Distribution warehouses by such national names as Target, Walgreen's, Wal-Mart, Dollar General and the adidas Group are also taking advantage of South Carolina's unparalleled infrastructure.

In addition, South Carolina's strategic location and five interstates make it easy for trucking companies to move goods efficiently and cost-effectively—both from suppliers to the center and from the center to its customer base. South Carolina is crisscrossed by five interstate highways: I-85, I-26, I-77, I-95 and I-20. Offering excellent east-west and north-south access, these interstates are enhanced by another 41,000 miles of state-maintained highways.

In fact, all terminals at the Port of Charleston are within two miles of interstate highway access, where approximately 130 truck lines and 150 motor freight lines offer a wide variety of local, long haul and specialty motor freight services. Together, truck-dependent industries employ 57 percent of South Carolina's workers and 75 percent of the cargo received at the ports is moved by truck. Companies in South Carolina have access to an extensive choice of transportation providers including a wide selection of less-than-truckload (LTL) carriers. The South Carolina Trucking Association (SCTA) membership has grown from 17 dues paying members in 1936 to almost 900 company members today. The association's carrier members range from small, family-owned businesses, to large, national companies with major terminal facilities throughout South Carolina, the Southeast and the nation.

Port of Charleston

The Port of Charleston is ranked as one of the most efficient ports year after year.



One of the busiest container ports on the East Coast and the seventh largest container port in the United States, the Port of Charleston, has been a major global center of commerce and trade for three centuries. More high crane container lifts are done at this port than any other in the Western Hemisphere. In 2007, the port handled 1.88 million TEUs.

Saving companies more dollars with more efficient operations:

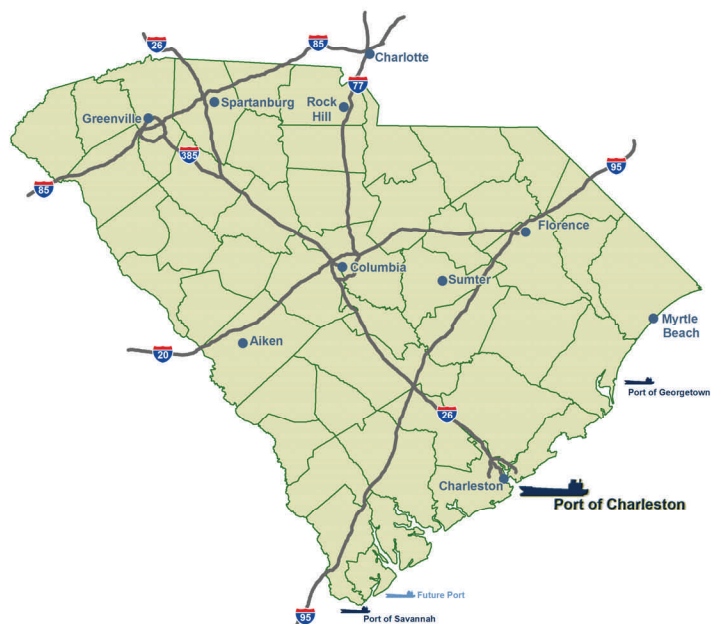
- Ranked as one of the most efficient ports year after year.
- Transit times of 1-2 hours from open sea to dockside, fastest on the East Coast.
- Works ships at an average of 41 moves per hour per crane.
- Trucker averages of 20 minutes from the time arriving at the gate to swiping the outbound ticket.

Source: S.C. State Ports Authority, 2008.

Making an impact on the environment:

- Adding and restoring 22 acres of tidal marshes.
- Reducing port-related air emissions and funding an air monitoring station, three years ahead of required timeline.
- Partnering with Wildlife Trust to protect the Northern Right Whale.

Source: PledgeForGrowth.com.



Airports

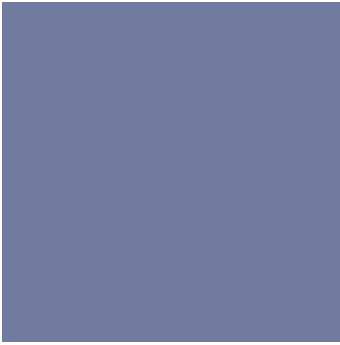
Any location in South Carolina is within about an hour of a commercial airport.

Eight strategically placed airports provide companies with access to a commercial airport within one hour of any location in South Carolina. Direct flights are available to most major domestic hubs throughout the United States, and international connections can easily be made via Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago and New York.

Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT), Charleston International Airport (CHS), Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE) Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (GSP) and Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR) offer non-stop flights to major cities throughout the nation, as shown on the maps.

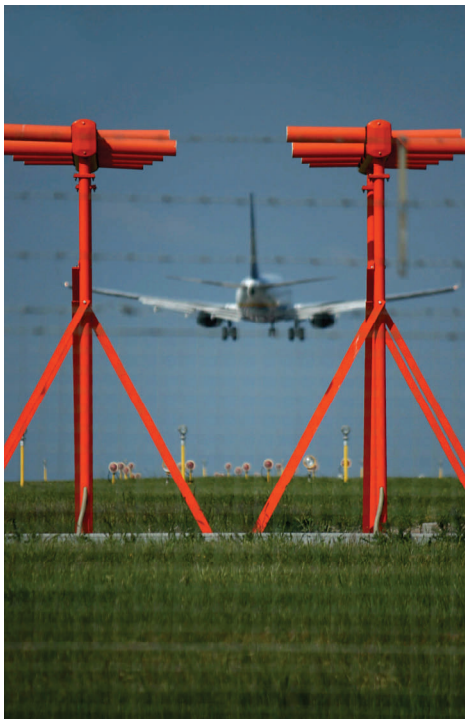
South Carolina also has another 70 general aviation fields available, offering private air service.





Air Cargo Services

South Carolina is home to a UPS Southeastern Regional Hub.



Companies gain a strategic advantage by locating in South Carolina. All major freight carriers serve the state, including the **United Parcel Service (UPS)**, which has a Southeastern Regional Hub at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. An expanded heavy-freight shipping network offers next day, second day and third day air service and can process 42,000 packages an hour. The buildings encompass 352,000 square feet and the 44-acre ramp is large enough to hold 22 DC-8 aircrafts.

Evergreen Aviation Ground Logistics has operations in Charleston, providing air freight and aviation services. Evergreen offers cargo buildup, breakdown, warehousing, mail handling, sorting and other distribution services.

Federal Express has also expanded its South Carolina presence at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. With these multi-million dollar expansions, a location in South Carolina offers time-sensitive companies considerable advantages.

Rail

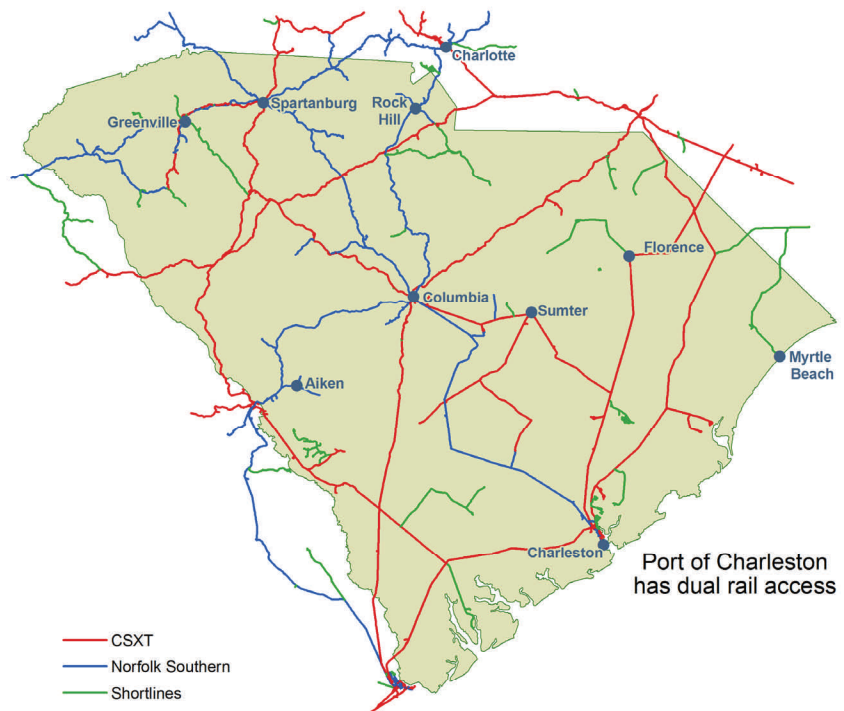
CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern and seven affiliated and independent lines combine to offer rail service seven days a week in every metro area, operating almost 2,300 miles of rail. From South Carolina's strategic location, companies can access over 21,000 miles of lines in 22 states operated by Norfolk Southern, and over 22,000 miles operated by CSX.

In addition to the extensive network mentioned above, dual rail access is available at the Port of Charleston at the North Charleston Terminal. The Port Utilities Commission of Charleston (PUCC) and the Port Terminal Railroad (PTR) provide switching services to the terminals of the State Ports Authority, CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern.

Both CSX and Norfolk Southern also offer daily, double-stack train express services (inbound and outbound); providing customers efficient access to market gateways in the Northeast, Midwest, Canada and Mexico, while eliminating costly double handling of goods.



South Carolina Rail Lines



Foreign Trade Zones

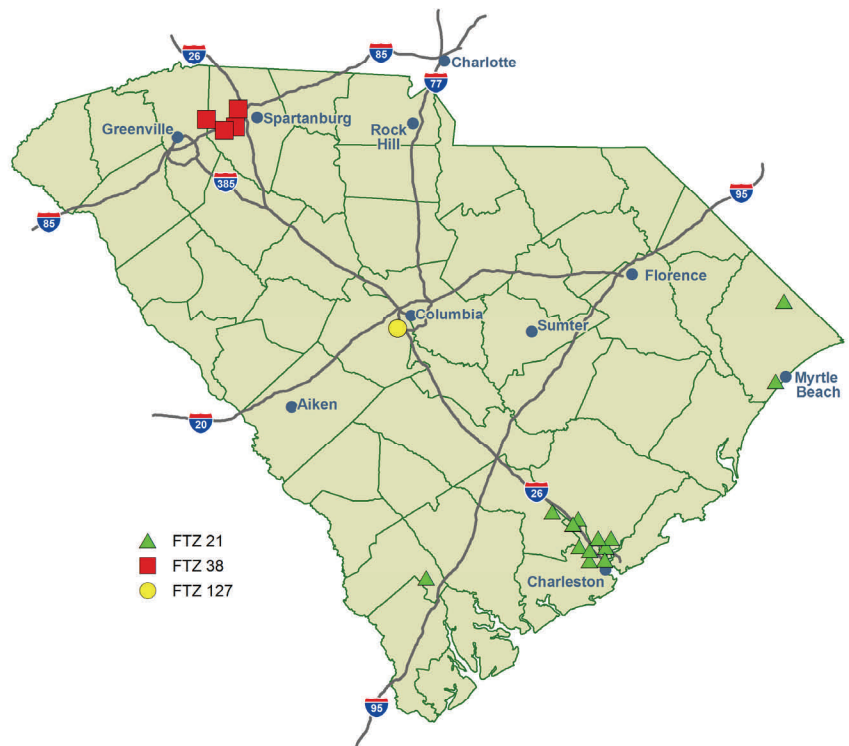
Three strategically located Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs), whose 18 sites serve the entire state, are a critical part of South Carolina's world-class transportation system. Just 12 miles north of Charleston, FTZ 21 is readily accessible to Charleston's port. FTZ 127 in Columbia serves the central areas of the state and FTZ 38 serves the Upstate; all are adjacent to major metropolitan airports, facilitating air freight service worldwide.

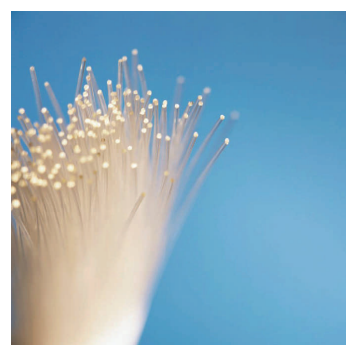
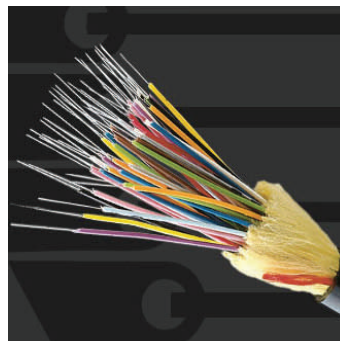
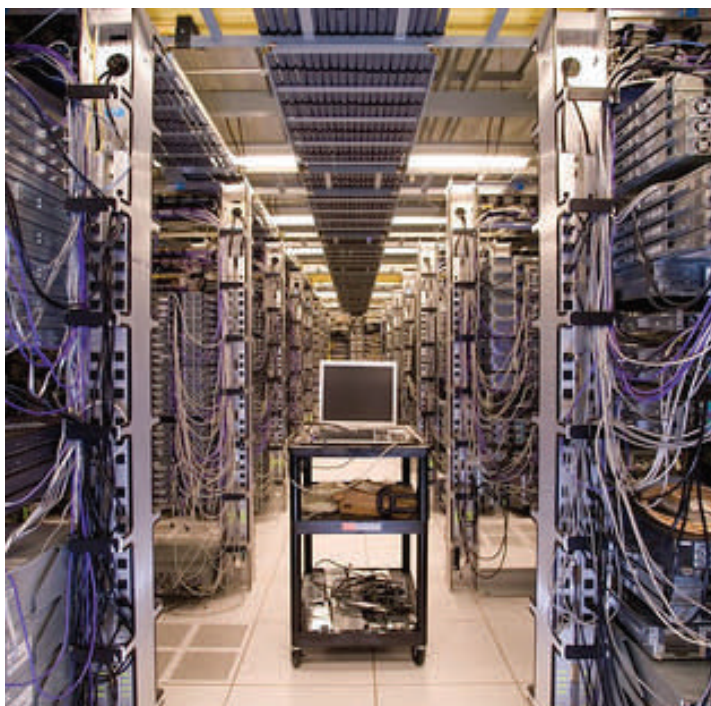
Operating within a FTZ offers several benefits:

- Possible reduction or elimination of customs duties
- Deferral of duty payment until the time of delivery of the final product into U.S. commerce
- Increased efficiency because customs can be bypassed through direct delivery



Foreign Trade Zones in South Carolina





Telecommunications

South Carolina has a highly reliable world-class communications network, which was designed and engineered to meet the wireless, high-speed internet access and voice service requirements of industry. This network is comprised of digital switching centers and copper and fiber optic cable. To ensure continuity of service, redundancy is an integral component of this network.

South Carolina has 464,917 high-speed lines (over 200 kilobits per second in at least one direction) connecting homes and businesses to the Internet, which is 18 times the number of lines in 1999. About 94 percent of South Carolina households have access to high-speed Internet services according to a *Connected Nation* report.

In satellite communications, teleconferencing has been the specialty of South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) for more than 30 years. SCETV's capability to deliver cost-effective digital satellite services to users throughout the state has been enhanced with the completion of the SCETV Telecommunications Center in Columbia.

Energy

South Carolina has some of the lowest industrial power rates in the nation.

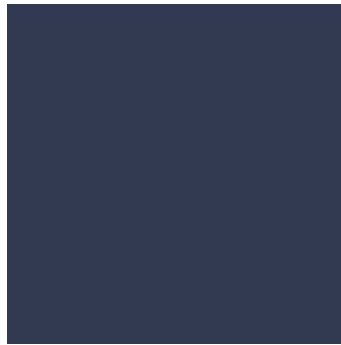
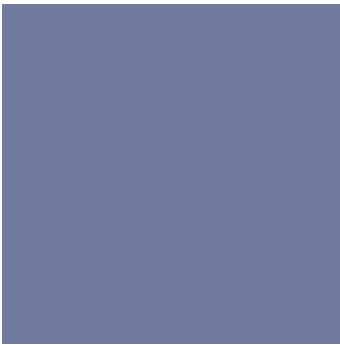
Costs: The size and number of utilities in the state have led to some of the region's most affordable power costs. Industrial power costs in the state average only 4.55 cents per kilowatt hour, one of the lowest rates in the nation (about 20 percent less than the national average). In addition to favorable rates, service and reliability are not sacrificed to maintain costs. South Carolina's four generating utilities have a combined capacity of 22.551 gigawatts to support the growth of industry in the state.



Natural Gas: Two interstate pipeline systems and intrastate pipelines provide abundant supplies of natural gas to South Carolina's manufacturers. The rates and services are subject to regulation by the S.C. Public Service Commission.

Nuclear Power: South Carolina has the most nuclear capacity of all Southeastern states and ranks third among the 31 states with nuclear power capacity. Four nuclear power plants supply about half the state's electricity demand, with several new ones slated to come on line by 2015 pending the completion of licensing and construction. Nuclear power, which is emission-free, has been generated by plants in the Palmetto State since the early 1970's.





Water & Air

South Carolina has an abundance of clean, clear water and air – ideal for business and pleasure. The state’s air quality ranks among the highest in the nation.

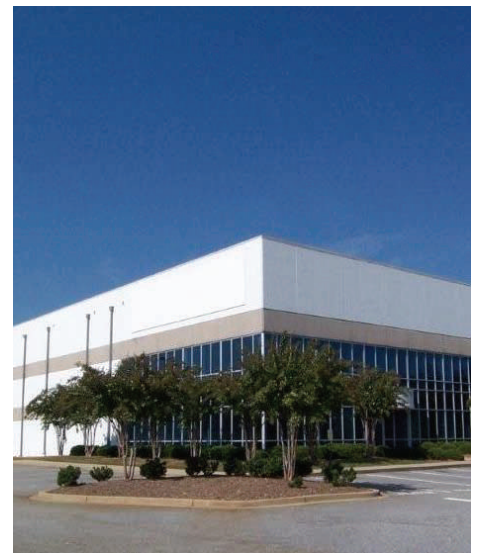
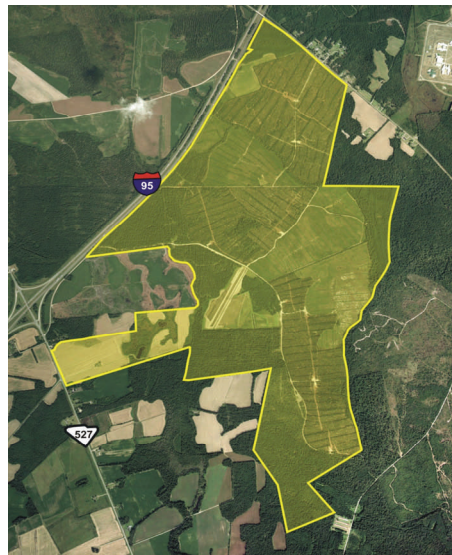
Some **33 billion gallons** of clean water per day flow through the state from two of the largest river basins on the East Coast. South Carolina has an abundance of surface water resources. **Four major river basins** in the state – the Savannah, ACE (Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto), Santee and Pee Dee – include 11,000 miles of rivers and streams.

Currently, about **5.8 billion gallons** are withdrawn daily from the state’s surface waters to supply municipal, industrial, agricultural and thermoelectric power generation needs. About 94 percent of this water is returned to the resource. The surface water supports many in-stream uses such as hydroelectric power production, wastewater assimilation, navigation and recreational activities including boating, swimming and fishing. High-tolerance wastewater systems in South Carolina require less pretreatment, resulting in lower operating costs for wastewater disposal.



Buildings and Sites

South Carolina has a land area of more than 30,000 square miles, with available acreage and buildings in practically every county.



Buildings

South Carolina maintains an inventory of over 300 available buildings and spec buildings, ranging in size from 5,000 to over 700,000 square feet. Year-end lease rates for Class A buildings in South Carolina were over 30 percent below the national average (*Grubb & Ellis, 2008 Real Estate Forecast*).

Sites

Almost 400 industrial sites ranging from five up to 5,000 acres are available in South Carolina. Coupled with the availability of shovel-ready sites, and construction costs currently 10 percent below the national average (*Marshall Valuation Service, May 2008*), companies can quickly become operational in South Carolina at a fraction of the cost.

South Carolina Certified Sites

South Carolina Certified Industrial Sites are sites that have met or exceeded a four-step, rigorous certification process. All certified sites have a minimum acreage requirement, can accommodate a facility of at least 50,000 square feet, have all utilities in place and have completed all environmental assessments. Currently, over 50 sites in South Carolina are Certified Industrial Sites.

Rankings

South Carolina's national recognitions are proof positive that the state's infrastructure is second to none.



- *Cargo Business News* designated the Port of Charleston a "Star Port" and Wando Welch Terminal a "Star Terminal" in 2008. *Source: Cargo Business News, February 2008.*



- *The Journal of Commerce* acknowledged that the Port of Charleston is "regarded as the most productive East Coast port." Charleston recently averaged 41.5 container moves per hour with an average trucker turn time of 23 minutes. *Source: Journal of Commerce, January 7, additional 2008 information from Port.*



- *fDi Magazine's* 2007/2008 North American Cities of the Future competition ranks Charleston second best in the nation for infrastructure in the large city category (500,000-2,000,000 population). *Source: fDi Magazine, April 2007.*



- *Expansion Management* and the American Transportation Research Institute ranked South Carolina as the sixth lowest state in fuel taxes and fees. *Source: Expansion Management/American Transportation Research Institute, 2007.*



- Charleston, Columbia, Greenville and the Rock Hill area consistently appear on *Expansion Management* magazine's list of "5-Star Logistics Metros," the most logistics-friendly metros in the U.S. *Source: Expansion Management, 2007.*

Testimonials

When considering market accessibility, telecommunications capabilities and logistical advantages, South Carolina provides a clear benefit to companies looking to locate or expand in the Palmetto State.

Mediterranean Shipping Company Announces Expansion

\$7 Million Investment Brings 200 Jobs to Charleston County



"MSC has grown exponentially in recent years and will continue to grow as we add new generation mega-container ships," Vice President Sergio Fedelini says. "Charleston has been able to offer us what many other locations have not – great incentives, a dedicated workforce and reasonable coastal living. We could have located anywhere. Being near a port is not required for daily operations, but it is a very nice benefit."

Sergio Fedelini, Vice President, Mediterranean Shipping Company

Nationwide Express, Inc. Announces New Facilities in Columbia and Charleston

\$10 Million Investment to Bring 75 New Jobs to South Carolina

"Nationwide is very excited about entering the South Carolina market. The state's infrastructure and access to markets made a decision to expand into South Carolina an easy one. We anticipate future growth at both facilities to total over 250,000 square feet," said David Coffey, President, Nationwide Express, Inc.



David Coffey, President, Nationwide Express, Inc.

Starbucks Announces Intention to Build New U.S. Roasting Plant in South Carolina

Calhoun County Facility to Roast, Package, and Ship Starbucks Premium Coffees to Southeast Markets



"Starbucks is pleased to further strengthen our ties to the South Carolina business community," said Peter Gibbons, Starbucks senior vice president, manufacturing. "This new facility will help us meet increasing demand for our premium coffees and allows us to support our growth in the Southeast."

Starbucks chose the Calhoun County site based on several factors, including workforce availability, transportation access, quality of life, and strong support from local and state leaders.

Peter Gibbons, Vice President, Manufacturing, Starbucks Coffee Company



South Carolina Department of Commerce



*For more information on how we
can help your business grow, contact:*

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